



AMESBURY COUNCIL ON AGING MINUTES



Meeting was conducted under the 'Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c.30A, §20' signed
on March 12, 2020

Meeting was called to order by Gayle Yarnall at 4:35PM on March 11, 2021.

Attendees Present: Doreen Arnfield, Gayle Yarnall, Kliggie Thomas, Rosemary Olbash, Lee Ford, Jon Younger, Frankie Lallemand, Ann Sutherland

Absent: Susan Ballard, Sarah Kearney, Nicholas Costello

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve minutes of February 11, 2021 meeting; motion made by Kliggie Thomas and duly seconded by Lee Ford.

Vote: Unanimous

Reports:

- Report was given by Mary-Lee Ford and covers the period through March 9, 2021.

Statistics:

- Unavailable for this meeting; April's meeting will include two months of reporting.

Old Business:

AARP Tax Prep: The program is completely booked in Amesbury. People have been asked to drop off their tax documents on Tuesdays for the volunteers to prepare on Wednesdays. Anyone that still requires an appointment will be referred to Salisbury or Newburyport, no one will be turned away.

Lunch: Seventy- seven curbside lunches were distributed in February.

New Business:

Vaccine Rollout: Nine local communities have formed the Lower Merrimac Valley Regional Collaborative (LMVRC) and established local vaccine sites. The first clinic in Amesbury will be at Amesbury High School March 13th and 14th. Appointment links will be released every Monday and Tuesday at 8:00AM and 12:00PM on the city's website. In addition to the LMVRC, the director was able to connect with a nurse practitioner from the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center who helped set up over 150 appointments at their Methuen location.

Grant: The director has hired a person to write the Mass DOT grant application for a van. The application will be submitted in May.

Age Friendly Task Force: There will be a presentation on Reframing Aging; the director will provide a link to the members of the COA Board if anyone is interested in viewing.

Greenleaf: The director has hired Briana Fortado as the new Greenleaf Coordinator. She will begin June 1st; the program will be offered for 2 to 3 days a week outside.

Lunch: The curbside lunch offered for St. Patrick's Day has 105 people signed up. Ann Sutherland has offered to help distribute the meals.

Virtual Craft Classes: A small number attended the silk scarf class; approximately five people attended the Crafts with Claire class.

Social with the Chiefs: Attendance has increased with many questions concerning the vaccine.

Virtual Programs: Friday movies continue with very low attendance. Netflix series discussions are offered on Tuesdays.

Re-Opening: The director hopes to open the center with limited programs. Two weekly outdoor exercise classes will be offered. Small groups such as Low Vision and Busy Needles may also be able to resume in mid-April. The director hopes to offer music events each week throughout the summer months.

Funds: Thirty-three thousand dollars in additional funding has been received from the EMHOT grant. The funds will be used to purchase tablets and to offer Recovery Coaching and support groups through our partnership with Link House, Inc. The support groups will cover grief, substance use, and caregiver support.

Board Changes: Rosemary Olbash has submitted her resignation effective May 1st and Nicholas Costello will remain on the Board as an alternate.

Five to Ten Year Vision: Mayor Gove has asked the director for a plan to get younger seniors involved in the center. The director would like to offer programming to attract younger seniors. The use of local resources, evening programming, offsite programs were discussed.

Meeting Adjourned at: 5:35PM

Next Scheduled Meeting: April 9, 2021 at 4:00PM for Annual Election of Officers followed by regular meeting at 4:30PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemary Olbash, Secretary

